AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] Figure 4 illustrates the relationship of the target heart rate Q to the ratio M. By virtue of the clamping of heart rates below HRmin and above HRmax to the nearest limit value, the process will always operate within the range of Mmin to Mmax along the horizontal axis. Consequently, the target flow rate Q will be determined by ~~a function 410~~ any one of functions 410a, 410b, 410c, or 410d whose ~~value lies~~ values lie within the range between Qmin and Qmax. Any monotonic function can be employed to define the relationship between the target flow rate and the ratio M. As a default, a linear function might be employed, as depicted by the solid line 410a. However, if the doctor determines that a high flow rate is preferred, a non-linear function such as those depicted by the lines 4106 or 410c might be selected. Conversely, if a relatively low flow rate is more desirable, e.g. the patent only requires assistance at high activity levels, a function such as that represented by line 410d can be selected.